

4. (Once Amended) The substantially purified nucleic acid molecule according to claim 2, wherein said substantially purified nucleic acid molecule comprises a region having a single nucleotide polymorphism.

16. (New) A substantially purified nucleic acid molecule encoding a rice protein or fragment thereof from Table 1, wherein said substantially purified nucleic acid molecule comprises a fragment nucleic acid molecule having from about 50 to about 100 nucleotide residues of a nucleic acid molecule selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 through SEQ ID NO: 69652.

17. (New) A substantially purified nucleic acid molecule having between 90 % and 100% sequence identity with a second nucleic acid molecule selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 through SEQ ID NO: 69652 and complements thereof.

18. (New) The substantially purified nucleic acid molecule of claim 17, wherein said substantially purified nucleic acid molecule has between 99 % and 100% sequence identity with said second nucleic acid molecule.

19. (New) The substantially purified nucleic acid molecule according to claim 17, wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises a microsatellite sequence.

20. (New) The substantially purified nucleic acid molecule according to claim 17, wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises a region having a single nucleotide polymorphism.

#### REMARKS

Following entry of this amendment claims 1-4 and 6-20 will be pending in the instant application. Claims 2 through 4 have been amended, claim 5 has been canceled, and new claims 16-20 have been added. Support for the amendments and new claims may be found in the original claims and throughout the specification, *e.g.*, page 17, line 22 to page 18, line 4, and page 20, line